HEAVE-HO!
HEAVE-HO!
DUM
DUM
BUM
BUM
This festival, taking place every 15th September, dates back to the time when Kamakura was Japan's capital.
The Mask Festival: Nowadays a traditional festival at the Goryu Sanctuary near the city of Kamakura can still be found during which 10 men, elected beforehand, walk through town wearing masks...

Summary of the first volume:

In the year 1185 AD, during the bloody battle of Dan no ura, Shogun Minamoto's (Genji) army is able to exterminate the army defending the interests of the Taira Clan (Heiji).

Six years later, Tomoe, part of the Taira Clan, still harbours a boundless hatred towards the Genji.She meets Akube, survivor from the Heiji army, in order to ask him to help her get revenge.

They are soon joined by Ienaga, an inventor/warrior, friend of Akube...The three companions are however attacked by the Mask Clan, made up of soldiers returning from the Land of the Dead...

Only the sword Azamaru, worn by Akube, is capable of thwarting the attacks from those phantoms.

In the past, Azamaru is said to have belonged to the Gods of Japan...

AZAMARU 2

IPPEI TAMAKI

CHAPTER 7	: SHOGUN ASASHI APPEARS	P. 1
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CHAPTER 11	: SHOGUN ASASHI FLARES UP	P. 137
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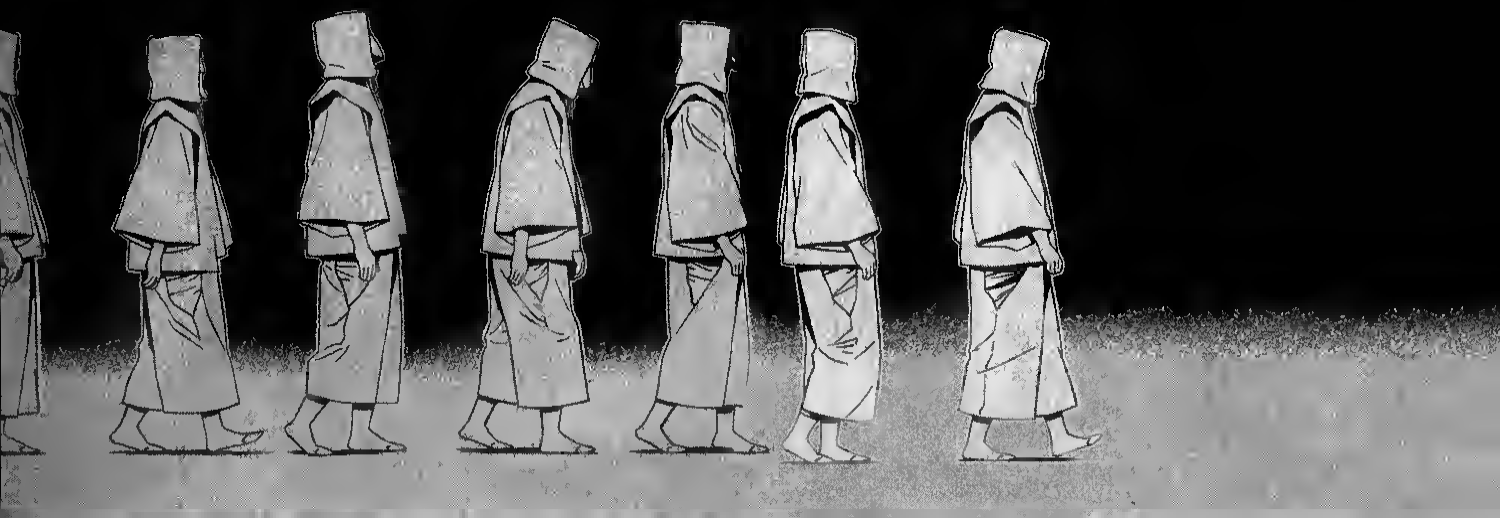
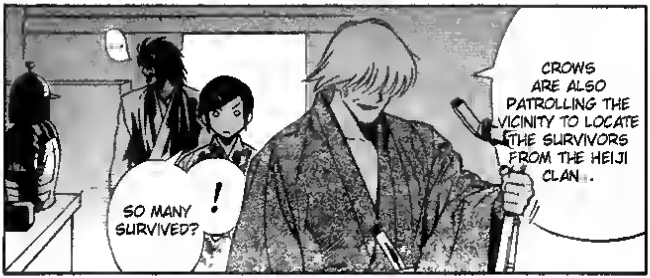


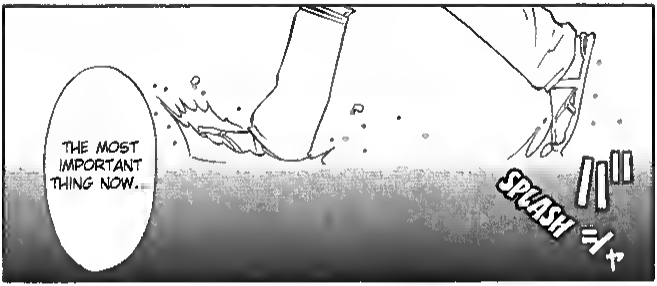
In order to ensure better protection for his son and the mother of his child, the shogun is said to have called the whole family to work for him. However they had to wear masks during official travel...
Minamoto Yoritomo is supposed to have had a love relationship with a low ranking woman from a village.. a child is said to have been born out of it.
BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN MASKS WORN BY THE LIVING OR THE DEAD IN THIS TOWN.
THE MASK CLAN IS COMPOSED OF GHOSTS... DEAD PEOPLE HIDE THEIR FACES.


CROWS ARE ALSO PATROLLING THE VICINITY TO LOCATE THE SURVIVORS FROM THE HEIJI CLAN..
SO MANY SURVIVED?!

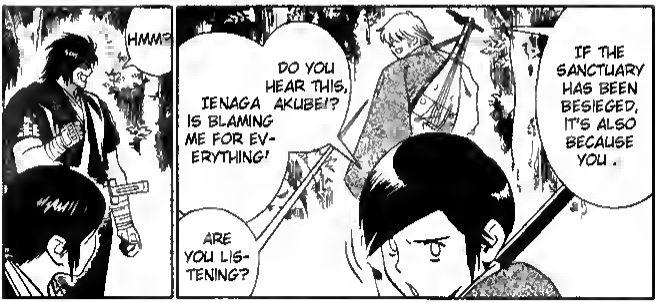
I HAD NO IDEA..
BANG
THE GENJI ARE AWARE OF IT!
BUT IN MY OPINION NOT MANY HEIJI REMAIN..

THEY ARE ALL DEAD,
EXTERMINATED BY THE MASKS OF GENJI..
MAKES ONE WONDER IF THEY REALLY WERE HUMAN ONCE...
STRANGE WAY TO MAKE FRIENDS!

THIS WAR IS NOT OVER YET.
IN SPITE OF ALL APPEARANCES...
Chapter 7: Shogun Asashi appears


THE MOST IMPORTANT THING NOW..
SPLASH ニパャ

IF YOU HADN'T SLEPT ALL NIGHT, WE WOULDN'T BE LATE!
WHY ARE WE WALKING THEN?
IS TO STAY HIDDEN IN THIS FOREST DURING THE DAY AND TO MOVE OUT DURING THE NIGHT SO AS NOT TO ATTRACT THE CROWS' ATTENTION


HMM?
DO YOU HEAR THIS, IENAGA AKUBEI? IS BLAMING ME FOR EVERYTHING!
ARE YOU LISTENING?
IF THE SANCTUARY HAS BEEN BESIEGED, IT'S ALSO BECAUSE YOU.

ER... YES, YES...
WHAT?
YOU WEREN'T LISTENING WERE YOU?

AKUBE, RELAX!
THOSE MONSTERS WON'T FOLLOW US HERE! OR SO I THINK.
THAT'S MARVEL-LOUS.
BING!
YOU MUST BE RIGHT
ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU DIDN'T PISS ON YOUR-SELF THIS TIME.

SPLASH!
YES! IN FACT, VERY HUNGRY!
WE ARE GOING TO MAKE A BREAK SOON...
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY
GLITTER
AKUBE! COME ON. HURRY UP!
MUNCH!

OH?
ARE YOU FINISHED, AKUBE?
HOW FAST!
HI HI HI HI!
BUT NOT YOURS
HI HI!
A REAL LITTLE WIFE! AH AH!
GAHER
BUT A BIG GUY LIKE YOU SHOULD EAT MORE!
JUST RELIEVING MYSELF OVER THERE ..
AKUBE? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
?

KEEP THIS IN RESERVE.
THANK YOU.
WE STILL HAVE A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF US.
VERY WELL...
AH! AKUBE YOUR...
OUT OF THE QUES-TION! THERE S STILL A LONG JOURNEY AHEAD!
I WOULDN'T MIND ONE!
OKAY...
WHERE MIGHT THEY BE HIDING?
HMM...
GULP

ボシャッ
SPLATTER

YOU HAVE FOUND ME!
OH! I FOUND YOU NOW! OR ON THE CONTRARY...
?
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
UNLESS IT'S DUE TO THE POWERS OF YOUR DIVINE SWORD!
IF I HAD KNOWN IT WOULD BE THAT WAY... YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR REPUTATION!
CLANG
SURA
I SEE THAT YOU HAD THE COURAGE NOT TO ESCAPE...
CHUCKLE
YOU HAVE A LOT OF GUTS TO COME AT ME FROM THE FRONT.
CHUCKLE

KAMEJIRO!!!
I NOTICE FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTERS...
YOU TOO, TOSHI.

EXACTLY...
THIS FELLOW IS NOT A SIMPLE SOLDIER!

GIVE!
TWANG
UGH!
THIS SOUND IS HORRIBLE!
AND BESIDES IT'S SO HEAVY!
TWANG
TWANG
SO HERE WE GO!
CLICK
WANT TO SEE HOW IT WORKS?
CLICK
YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING...
BAM
BAM

ズズー
CLICK
WOULD YOU LEND IT TO ME?
NOT ON YOUR LIFE! BUT I ALSO HAVE THIS IF YOU WANT...
HERE GOES THE LUTE WITH FIRE BALLS!
SWISH
.....
What do you want me to do with it?
EH? THAT THINGA-MAJIG?

YOU RECOGNIZED IT AT LAST?
BUT THIS SWORD...
TOMOMORI?
TAIRA NO TOMOMORI*?
YUB
THIS SWORD IS MORE VALUABLE THAN MY LUTE!
IT'S A TREASURE RETRIEVED FROM THE HEIJI... THE KOGARASU...
CHU
I STOLE IT FROM TOMOMORI WHEN I LEFT THE HEIJI CLAN.
THAT MAY BE SO, BUT I PREFER YOUR LUTE!
FORGET IT! A NORMAL HUMAN WOULD DISLOCATE HIS SHOULDER BY USING IT.

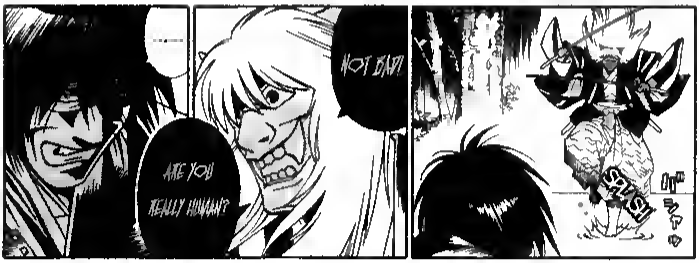
LOOK FOR YOURSELF DISLOCATED! HEHEHE!
GNNTER
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR SHOULDER THEN?
WHY ARE YOU STAYING WITH US?
YOU SAW THE MASKS, DIDN'T YOU?
MY LITTLE TOMOE, BY THE WAY...
WHAT?
YOU MAY BE DEAD BY TOMORROW...
I HOPE THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF RISKING YOUR LIFE AT ANY MOMENT!

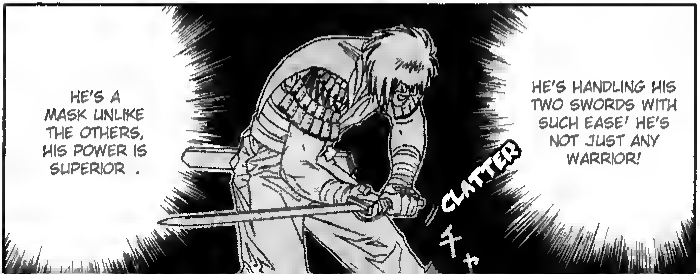
AKUBE NEEDS SOMEONE TO SHOW HIM THE ROAD TO TAKE...
I'M HIS TOUR GUIDE IN A WAY
HMM... FOR DIFFERENT REASONS...
THANG
ME?
AND YOU?
AT THE BEGINNING I WANTED HIS HELP TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE
I...
MOREOVER, I STILL NEED HIM.
THING
AND BESIDES AKUBE IS A HOTHEAD, YOU KNOW... HE NEEDS SOMEONE WHO CAN CONTROL HIM A BIT
I JUST WANT TO WALK BY THE SIDE OF THE MAN I LOVE!
PFFF! RUBBISH!
AND BY THE WAY, WHY ISN'T HE COMING BACK? AKUBE IS REALLY TAKING HIS TIME SPENDING A PENNY*!
BUT NOW...
EVEN IF I DIE TOMORROW...

ガシャ
ガシャ
ヒュッ
SWOOSH

SHOVE
CRASH
OOH!!
AHHAAA!
BANG
THWACK
WHOOSH

BAM


NOT BAD!
ARE YOU REALLY HUMAN?
SZUSH


HE'S A MASK UNLIKE THE OTHERS, HIS POWER IS SUPERIOR .
CLATTER
HE'S HANDLING HIS TWO SWORDS WITH SUCH EASE! HE'S NOT JUST ANY WARRIOR!

HOW AM I GOING TO FIGHT HIM...
WHO IS HE?
THIS GUY IS A TRUE WARRIOR! NOTHING TO DO WITH YOSHITSUNE'S UNDERLINGS!
GENJI
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOSHITSUNE'S TROOPS COULDN'T DO A THING AGAINST YOU.
YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE NAME OF YOUR MURDERER
SWISH
GRABS
FINALLY I MEET MY MATCH!

SFX RISES

GRIND
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!!!
AKU BEEE EEE!
BAM
TOMOE!

SFX: SLASH

WH-!?
YOU'RE HURT...
YOU CUT IT?
HA!
STAY AWAY!
TOMOE!

BANG
BANG
WH-?!
BANG
BANG

BLOCKS
BANG
HE STOPPED MY SHOTS?

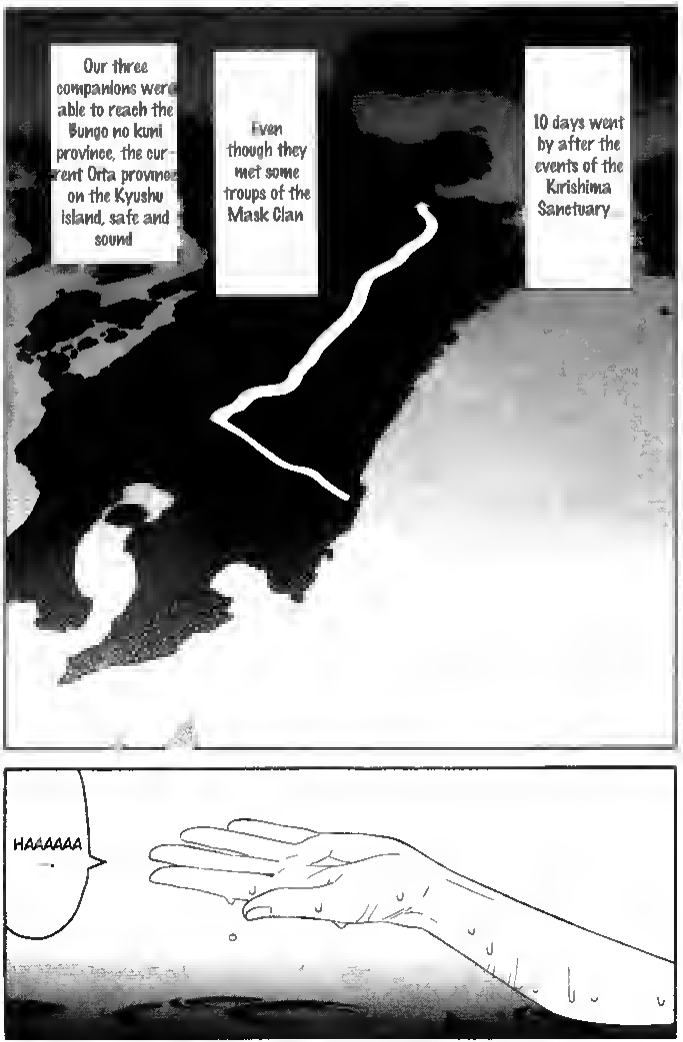
PING
キッ
RAAH!
カッ カッ カッ
SLASH
WOOSH

……
ZUKU
ZUKU
ZUKU

AS YOU WISH.
WITH PLEA-SURE
GRAB
I'LL HAVE TO ACCEPT THE NEW-TAKE TOWN JUST ISN'T MY TH
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
AH!
SLIDE
YES, YES...
THIS MAN SEEMED TO KNOW ME
I'M AL-RIGHT
HMM?
YE-
ARE YOU FINE?

This is how our three companions continue their way to the Northern Territories...

The autumn's colours grew more intense.


Our three companions were able to reach the Bungo no kuni province, the current Oita province on the Kyushu island, safe and sound
Even though they met some troops of the Mask Clan
10 days went by after the events of the Kirishima Sanctuary
HAAAAAA

AZAMARU

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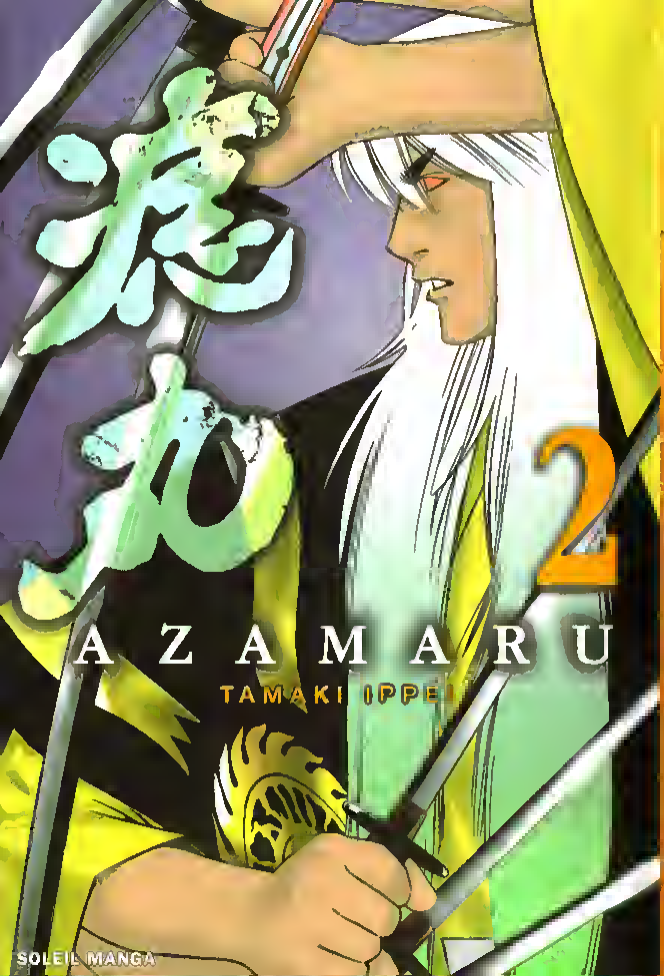

AZAMARU 2
TAMAKI IPPEI
SOLEIL MANGA

AZAMARU

Ippei Tamaki
Volume 01 Chapter 01

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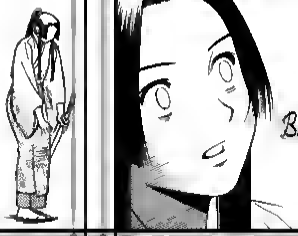

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